

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 791

By Yager

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Edward Foster "Ed" Wheeler, Jr., of Jacksboro and Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Edward Foster "Ed" Wheeler, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, an esteemed entrepreneur and businessman, Mr. Wheeler was a consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, Ed Wheeler was born in Jacksboro on February 10, 1945, the youngest of four children born to Veatta and Edward F. Wheeler; and

WHEREAS, orphaned at the age of fifteen, with the community's love and support and through his own determination, Mr. Wheeler gained prominence in East Tennessee as a financier and philanthropist for multiple endeavors promoting commerce, safety, and education in his beloved Campbell County; and

WHEREAS, a tireless entrepreneur from a young age, Ed Wheeler started or owned several businesses over his life. He served as a director of First National Bank of LaFollette early in his banking career, which eventually led to his founding of First Bank of East Tennessee and American Trust Bank of East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Ed Wheeler's philanthropic efforts left an indelible mark on his community; he sought prosperity for his fellow citizens and supported his community's business efforts as chairman of the Campbell County Chamber of Commerce and the LaFollette Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, through his generous support of Community Health of East Tennessee and Campbell County Children's Center, he stood by those who could not do so otherwise; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wheeler was also wholly dedicated to the educational needs of Campbell Countians, providing generous support toward the construction of Roane State

Community College's Campbell County Higher Education Center and underwriting numerous scholarships and programs that have literally turned around the lives of thousands of students; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his bountiful advocacy of higher education, Ed Wheeler received the Tennessee Board of Regents Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Philanthropy and the Council for Resource Development's Community College Benefactor Award; and

WHEREAS, Ed Wheeler estimably served as vice chairman of the City of LaFollette Planning Commission and was a member of the board of directors of East Tennessee PBS, Roane State Community College Foundation, and the East Tennessee Historical Society; and

WHEREAS, left to cherish his memory are his beloved wife of thirty-two years, Carol Wheeler (née Browder); his sisters, Marilyn (Jim) Rouse and Lorenda Castleberry; and numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, and a great-grandnephew; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wheeler was preceded in death by his mother, Veatta; his father, Edward; his infant brother, Benjamin; and his brother-in-law, Jim Castleberry; and

WHEREAS, Ed Wheeler leaves behind an enduring legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that we should remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Edward Foster "Ed" Wheeler, Jr., reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Wheeler.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy and upon proper request made to the appropriate clerk, the language appearing immediately following the State seal appear without House or Senate designation.